

CITY VIEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CLAYTON BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL CITIZENS

DECEMBER 2006

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 6



JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE

JSC meetings are held on the last Wednesday each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 31, 2007 The Center of Clayton 50 Gay Ave in Clayton.

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Residents Comment on Merger Study

Clayton and Richmond Heights officials hear what residents have to say.

The study of the possible merger or combining one or more essential services of the Cities of Clayton and Richmond Heights has been deemed one of the most important issues either City faces currently, and public input an essential facet of that issue. To obtain the public's input, two public forums were conducted and residents from Clayton and Richmond Heights gave their comments and opinions.



Lively discussions were held during breakout sessions at the Oct. 23 forum.

“We wanted to learn as much as possible about how the citizens of both communities felt about the possibility of a merger,” said Clayton Mayor Ben Uchitelle. Richmond Heights Mayor Betty Humphrey stressed the importance of encouraging the public to attend those meetings.

The forums were hosted by the Joint Study Committee (JSC), a 40-member group formed to study the possible merger of the municipal governments or the consolidation of one or more of their essential services. The first forum was held at The Heights on Oct. 23; the second at The Center of Clayton on Nov. 15. Comments at the well-attended forums varied, with residents noting their devotion to their respective communities. Residents voiced their concerns about the

process, impacts to future services and loss of contact with elected officials. Others wanted to learn more about how a potential merger would affect each community, and about the information that had been collected by JSC subcommittees up to this time. Many expressed appreciation for the committee’s efforts.

“We wanted to learn as much as possible about how the citizens of both communities felt about the possibility of a merger.”

Clayton Mayor Ben Uchitelle

The JSC will continue studying the merger and disseminating information to the public. The group hopes to complete the study by March 2007. However, the resolution approving the study contains a provision that would automatically extend the time line by an additional six months if needed to complete the work. The JSC will submit final recommendations to officials of each city, who will separately approve or disapprove the recommendations. If a merger is approved by both governing bodies, the question will then be presented to the voters of each city, who must each separately approve the merger recommendation for it to become effective.

How It All Started

Since December 2001, the Cities of Clayton and Richmond Heights have collaborated in a number of important areas. Specifically, they have cooperated on joint capital purchases, street striping, traffic enforcement, safety inspections and other joint efforts. Because of proximity and areas of commonality, the cooperation worked well.

Merger, cont'd. Page 3



Ward III Alderman
Alex Berger

IT'S HAPPENING IN WARD III!

Dynamic activity continues in Ward III, Clayton's urban and urbane center. Residents, businesses, and visitors alike can see, feel, and participate in the vibrancy. Exciting recent events, current challenges, and upcoming happenings to look forward to abound.

A snapshot of recent events includes:

- Rock the Block: the evening "not your usual block party" on North Central Avenue provided exciting live musical performances and an on-site Y-98 broadcast on October 4.
 - Clayton Triangle Event: on October 7, the Clayton Triangle Association presented the Jaguar Clubs of North America's Concorde d'Elegance, a nationally sanctioned show on North Brentwood.
 - The Big Read: also in downtown Clayton on October 7, Cultural Festivals produced the first annual event celebrating authors and promoting literacy with events for adults and children.
 - Clayton Canine Classic: dogs and humans enjoyed the second annual event in Shaw Park for the benefit of Stray Rescue of St. Louis on October 15.
 - MetroLink: special events marked the late August opening of the Cross County Extension, strengthening Clayton as the hub of the metro area and increasing access for all.
 - Forest Park Parkway: after years of construction and detours, the Parkway reopened earlier this year to improve area transportation for residents and businesses.
 - The Crescent: the dramatic condominium and retail development is under construction.
 - Clayton City Condominiums: the Board of Aldermen approved our first mixed-use condominium and retail "transit oriented development" on Forsyth Boulevard between Carondelet Plaza and the Forest Park Parkway.
Of course, in any complex cosmopolitan city, there are challenges to face:
 - Ice Skating Rink: safety and operational repairs to the ice-making system are being explored.
 - Hanley House: future uses and needed repairs to our historic property are being discussed.
 - Maryland School: future use of this site in a residential neighborhood will be determined following the School Board's decision to retain or sell the property.
 - Summer Storm of 2006: the severe storm of July 19 brought extreme heat, widespread power outages, and major damage to our trees; our Police, Fire, Public Works, Planning and Parks & Recreation Departments responded immediately and effectively to ensure residents' safety and well-being, and cooling centers were set up at Central Presbyterian Church and the Mid-County Library.
 - I-64 Rebuilding Project: later this year, the final design and schedule for the rebuilding of our major central-County highway thoroughfare will be announced; our City staff is monitoring the progress and potential affects that this multi-year construction project will have on Clayton residents and businesses, and regional commuters.
- Don't forget the upcoming activities:
- Holiday Champagne Stroll: on November 19, this annual event will highlight the chic antique shops and boutiques located on Clayton Road from Hanley to Brentwood.
 - Holiday Celebrations: All That Glitters, Clayton's holiday celebration, will be held on December 7; and visitors to Clayton will be treated to horse drawn carriage rides every Thursday in December.
- Clayton is a vital, balanced community in which to live, work, visit, and play. As always, we are honored to represent the residents and businesses of Ward III, and we encourage and appreciate the participation and communication from our friends and constituents.



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December Meeting Schedule

The following list of public meetings contains all regularly scheduled meetings of the City of Clayton. Meetings may be added, canceled or rescheduled, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, as the need arises.

- Dec. 4 Plan Commission/ARB
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Parks & Recreation
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 7 Board of Adjustment
The Center - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Art Commission
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 Board of Aldermen
City Hall - 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15 C.R.S.W.C.
The Center - 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 18 Plan Commission/ARB
City Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21 Landscape Committee
City Hall - 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 City Hall closed
- Dec. 26 Board of Aldermen
City Hall - 8:00 p.m.

Merger, cont'd. from Page 1

The two Mayors determined that more benefits might result from a complete merger of the two cities or combining one or more essential services -- benefits such as greater economies of scale, stronger voice in the region and in the State, stronger long-term financial future, flexibility in pursuing appropriate new developments, and continued success in providing quality services. On the other hand, there could be disadvantages - loss of separate autonomy, less direct contact with City officials, differing views of future development and the like. Clearly there needed to be a process to study the possible advantages and disadvantages of a potential merger.

As a first step in the process, the public was invited to a meeting of the Clayton Aldermen and the Richmond Heights Councilmen in November 2004 at Wydown Junior High School in Clayton. Here an expert from the Brookings Institute spoke about recent governmental mergers and the potential challenges and benefits.

From the beginning, the Mayors and Joint Study Committee members were committed to keeping their citizens informed throughout the process and encouraged the community to submit comments and suggestions. To facilitate this dialogue, Cheryl Verde, a Clayton resident, volunteered to develop a Web site that would keep the public fully posted on all information and also allow comments from citizens. We urge interested citizen to visit www.mergerstudy.org.

In the summer of 2005, the two cities voted to pursue a formal study. The study would be a formidable process, but it seemed a logical next step after several years of working together publicly.

The JSC, the group charged with conducting the study, was formed in September 2005, when officials from Clayton and Richmond Heights selected 20 individuals from each municipality to serve on the committee. In January 2006, the JSC formed 10 subcommittees: organizational structure, personnel, public safety, planning and zoning, infrastructure, finance, parks and recreation, information technology, library and public awareness.

These subcommittees meet regularly to study the advantages and disadvantages of merging the two cities, which could also lead to consideration of further resource sharing and services consolidation short of merger.

City Approves Unique Development

Transit-oriented development concept included in new project

The steady pace of development activities in Clayton confirms its status as one of the strongest commercial real estate markets in the region.

For the second time in less than a year, the City has approved plans for another outstanding development to be built in its central business district. In December 2005, the Board of Aldermen approved the Centene Plaza redevelopment project designed for the block bounded by



Rendering of the Orchard Development Group project looking southeast

Hanley Road, Forsyth Boulevard and Carondelet Avenue. On Oct. 24, 2006, the Board approved plans submitted by the Orchard Development Group for a mixed-use project proposed for 7454 Forsyth, the unimproved land just east of the Ritz-Carlton. The City has long been interested in having this area developed, and Board members commended Orchard for a well-designed project and for its commitment to the venture.

The proposed \$150 million development will consist of approximately 300 condominiums with a variety of floor plans and price points. It will include 31,260 square feet of office space and 17,960 square feet of street-level retail space. Likely tenants of the retail space will be restaurants and businesses that will satisfy the needs of area residents. In addition, the project will provide a strong connection to the nearby MetroLink passenger station on Forsyth Boulevard. The mix of residential, retail, office and a light-rail station are important elements found in transit-oriented developments (TOD). This TOD will be similar to the many TODs built in Chicago, Portland, Denver and Georgetown.

Three separate buildings, constructed of mostly brick, are planned. The Tower Building, a 26-story residential property with two floors of office space, will be built first. Next will be the six-story Terrace Building, which will include 9,600 square of street-level retail space. The seven-story Loft Building, which is partially in University City, will offer loft-style residential space with 6,700 square feet of street level retail space. The buildings will be arranged in a U-shape that will face north toward Forsyth Boulevard.

The project is unique because of its proximity to the new MetroLink passenger station at Forsyth Boulevard, its proximity to the central business district, and because a portion of the project is located in University City. University City's City Council approved Orchard's project plans at its Nov. 6 meeting.

Our Losses

Police Department Loses a Revered Veteran



Clayton Police
Lt. Eric Adams

The Clayton Police Department mourned the loss of one of its best officers. Lt. Eric Adams passed away in September due to complications of cancer. He was 62.

Lt. Adams, a 36-year veteran of the Clayton Police Department, was revered by his colleagues. He was known for his passion for police work and for complete and accurate investigative work. For 26 years, he was the lead investigator with the Major Case Squad on several cases. Lt. Adams' zeal for police work and down-to-earth demeanor made him popular with officers in Clayton and beyond.

His loss was met with heavy hearts at the Clayton Police Department. "He had a lot of friends and mentored a lot of people here," said Clayton Police Chief Tom Byrne. "They learned a lot from him. He was highly respected by the people he worked with. It was a great loss."

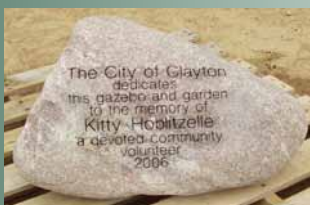
Lt. Adams served as an Army military policeman in Vietnam from 1968 through 1970, and was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Susan M. Adams, daughters Jessica Adams, Rhonda Whited and Paula Coleman, sons Derek and Justin Adams, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial to Kitty Hoblitzelle

Kitty Hoblitzelle, a devoted Clayton community volunteer, passed away last January following a brief illness. As chair of the Landscape Committee, she was respected for her expertise and admired for her straightforward manner. On Oct. 28, a ceremony was held in Taylor Park recognizing Kitty's years of service to the City.

In her memory, Clayton's Parks & Recreation Department and Landscape Committee dedicated the refurbished gazebo in Taylor Park; the park is located in the Old Town neighborhood where Kitty lived. The gazebo's roof was replaced and its copula refurbished. New posts, rails and landscaping were added. An engraved memorial stone was installed next to the gazebo.



Memorial stone

The City is grateful to the Parks & Recreation Department staff, Landscape Committee and Kitty's family members for their help in creating the memorial.



Battalion Chief Retires

Fire Battalion Chief James Worth will retire from the Clayton Fire Department on Dec. 4, 2006. During his 33 years of service to the community, he was involved in many aspects of the fire service. He was instrumental in placing the Safe Kids training program in the Clayton schools, handling equipment inventories, supplies, training and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) maintenance and training.



Fire Battalion Chief
James Worth

Jim was awarded the Silver Medal of Valor by the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association for his actions while fire and EMS incident commander of the St. Louis County Courthouse shooting incident in 1992. As a command officer, he took part in three presidential debates.

He will be truly missed. The City is grateful for his contribution to the Department and to the safety of the citizens of Clayton. We wish him the best in his retirement.



Refurbished gazebo in Taylor Park

East Central Dispatch Center

The East Central Dispatch Center (ECDC) represents a comprehensive, consolidated system that provides public safety communications for several communities through one facility. On Nov. 22, 2002, an intergovernmental agreement to participate was approved by the governing bodies of the Cities of Clayton, Maplewood, Richmond Heights, Shrewsbury, and Webster Groves. In July 2006, the City of Olivette became the sixth member of this dynamic operation that now serves over 72,000 residents and a daytime population in excess of 159,000 people.

Centrally located in the Richmond Heights Public Safety Building adjacent to Interstate 64, the ECDC provides operational support for more than 220 police officers and 160 firefighters. The ECDC has handled over 312,000 calls for service since it began operating in July 2004. The ECDC is lead by a Board of Directors comprised of all participating city managers. A committee of police and fire chiefs also provides guidance related to daily operations to a General Manager. As a result of this cooperative effort, the participating communities have experienced cost savings and improved professional services to their citizens, with the City of Clayton saving more than \$150,000 since the inception.

Laclede Gas Provides New Technology

Laclede Gas has asked the City to tell residents about the new Automated Meter Readers (AMR) being installed in the community. The new equipment will allow Laclede Gas to read customers' meters without inconveniencing them every month. The new equipment will generate precise charges and eliminate the need for estimated billing. Installation is free and takes just 15 minutes.

While workers have been installing the devices for several months, there are still many homes in the area that they have not been able to access. If you have an indoor meter, and you have been notified that a Laclede Gas representative has stopped by, please call 314.621.6960 to schedule an appointment. Visit www.lacledegas.com/customer/amr.htm, if you have questions or need more information about the AMR.

April 2007

Municipal Election

On Tuesday, April 3, 2007, the City of Clayton will hold an election for the purpose of filling the position of Mayor.

Persons interested in running for the office of Mayor are required to file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the City Clerk at Clayton City Hall, 10 N. Bemiston Ave. A filing fee of \$50.00 is due at the time of candidacy declaration. The first day for filing the forms for the April election is January 3, 2007, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The last day for filing will be January 22, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Candidates for the position of Mayor must: be at least 25 years of age, be a registered voter, and have lived in the City of Clayton two years prior to the election date.

Those candidates who file a declaration on the first day of filing will be placed on the ballot by random drawing. Candidates filing after January 3, 2007 will be placed on the ballot in the order declarations are received.

For more information, contact June Waters, City Clerk, at 314.290.8469.

City Receives

Environmental Award

At its State conference in October, the American Planning Association of Missouri recognized the City of Clayton for its efforts in promoting sustainable development practices that minimize the impact on the environment. The City encourages developers to take such measures as using energy efficient windows and high-efficiency mechanical systems, recycling building materials following a demolition, installing green roofs with landscaping that absorb heat and water, and reducing storm water runoff.

Recently, the Board of Aldermen took steps to allow Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification to qualify as a public benefit for Planned Unit Developments. LEED® is an international rating system which provides a widely accepted standard for developing environmentally sensitive buildings. The Board also passed a resolution requiring new construction and major renovation of City projects to comply with LEED® standards. The City of Clayton is pleased to be recognized for its commitment to sustainable design practices.



Forgotten the phone number of your favorite restaurant? Just check in the enclosed 2007 Clayton Retail Guide. The Guide includes listings of all Clayton's hotels, restaurants, shops and services. For additional copies of the Guide, call Clayton's Communications Office at 314.290.8473 or the Clayton Chamber of Commerce at 314.726.3033.

Ice Rink Closed for 2006-2007 Season

City assesses future of ice rink



Shaw Park Ice Rink

The Shaw Park Ice Rink, Clayton's open-air skating, opened in 1960. The last major repairs were made in 1998. Since that time, the City has continued to make interim repairs in

order to keep the aging rink operating. For the past two years, expenses have escalated, while revenues and usage have been negatively impacted by the reduction of ice time as a result of warmer temperatures.

At the Oct. 24 Board of Alderman meeting, City staff provided cost information for operating the ice rink. They reported that the current ammonia ice-making system is breaking down and must be repaired or replaced prior to opening this year. With changes in the Fire Code, the Clayton Fire Department pinpointed deficiencies in the system approximately two years ago. Staff took remedial steps to address the issues outlined; however, the system must be brought into full compliance. The repair cost is estimated to be \$125,000. If the system was converted to Freon, which is a safer system, the cost would be approximately twice as much.

Another cost issue is the Zamboni, a specialized piece of equipment used to groom the ice, which was purchased in 1994. The likelihood of it operating through one more season is doubtful. Purchasing a new Zamboni would cost approximately \$72,000.

With normal operating costs, replacement of carpeting, and utilities, the cost to open the rink this season would exceed \$300,000. Because of expenses and delays needed for repairs, the rink will be closed for the season.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, the Board reviewed the results of a recent survey of Clayton residents' interest in parks and recreation activities. Only 14% of those responding used the ice rink more than five times in the past two years, but 67% would like the City to keep the rink open. At its Nov. 14 meeting, the Board decided to establish a Task Force to study the current operations and to make recommendations regarding the long-term viability of the rink. It was also decided that the City will hire an engineer to work with the Task Force on making recommendations and developing specifications prior to a request for formal bids. Completion of the Task Force's study is expected in April 2007. Residents interested in serving on the Task Force should contact City Clerk June Waters at 314.290.8469.

PERCs Come with Riding MetroLink

The new Cross County MetroLink Extension runs through downtown Clayton and is a tremendous asset to the community. It provides a convenience to Clayton residential and business citizens and to the thousands of commuters and visitors to Clayton each day. "The potential long-term benefits are incalculable," said Clayton Mayor Ben Uchitelle.

One of the immediate benefits is the Partial Expense Reduction for Commuters (PERC) program. The program promotes the use of MetroLink by offering benefits to businesses and their employees. Since the program operates on a pre-tax basis, it benefits employees by reducing their taxable income; it also reduces their out-of-pocket cost for transit. It saves employers money not only by reducing payroll taxes and payroll tax liability; it also reduces employers' costs for employee parking and reduces absenteeism and tardiness. Everyone benefits by reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and conserving energy by encouraging employees to commute using transit. Clayton will be one of the first cities to be part of this program.

To learn more about PERC, visit www.metrostlouis.org, e-mail marketing@metrostlouis.org, or call 314.982.1425.

That's the Ticket

Clayton's City Clerk June Waters rides MetroLink to Clayton frequently; she takes it from the Sunnen Station. "I was surprised at how easy it was. Now I ride MetroLink instead of fighting all the traffic," she said. Recently, June found that even the ticket dispensing machines have become more user friendly.

The Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) are located near entrances at MetroLink stations, including the upper level of the Clayton garage at Shaw Park Drive. June warns not to insert money before pressing one of the red buttons for a transit choice. The TVMs accept cash only; currently credit or debit transactions cannot be processed. "And, if you have problems, just press the button on the Information panel," June explained.

Metro is committed to making riding our light-rail system convenient and easy. The City of Clayton encourages everyone to take advantage of the new Cross County Extension through Clayton.



City Clerk June Waters

If you haven't signed up for the Clayton Connection, you're missing out on getting the latest news about Clayton, and one of the best methods for staying abreast of current Clayton happenings. Just go to the City's website: www.ci.clayton.mo.us, click HOME and then the Clayton e-communications icon.

Sign up for **Clayton e Communications**
[click here for more information](#)

Holidays in Clayton

An experience to remember

Clayton shops and boutiques are brimming with gifts and gift-giving ideas. Every Thursday horse drawn carriage rides will whisk merrymakers through Clayton's winter wonderland alive with thousands of twinkling lights and exquisitely decorated window displays. Families come to Clayton to experience a traditional holiday outing, to dine at one of Clayton's award-winning restaurants and to find the perfect holiday gift in one of its charming boutiques.



Clayton residents and visitors are invited to take advantage of the wealth of shopping and dining opportunities in its charming business districts: the Central Business District and the Clayton Triangle, Clayton Road and The Shops of Clayton Row, DeMun area shops and restaurants and the Hanley-Wydown shops and restaurants.



All That Glitters

Clayton's Holiday Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, 6 to 8 p.m.

In downtown Clayton

The City of Clayton, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce and Clayton business owners invite the public to experience a holiday excursion with festivities that will include carolers, horse drawn carriage rides, and chestnuts roasting on an open fire (really!), topped off by a fireworks extravaganza in Shaw Park at 8 p.m. For more information, call: 314.290.8508 or 314.726.3033

Parking is free on downtown streets evenings, weekends and holidays.

During All That Glitters, restaurateurs and shop owners will be offering refreshments, discounts, drawings, special gifts, services and activities. All That Glitters participants include:

Adler Jewelers
Barucci Gallery
Byrd
Candicci's Italian Grille
Carondelet Grill
C.J. Mugg's
CLB Interiors

Flowers of Clayton
Hewitt & Hitchcock
International Diamond
Jon's Pipe Shop
Joy Tribout Interior Design
Kilkenny's Pub
Kitchens & Baths by Kopman

Limoncello Italian Cafe
Luciano's Trattoria
Pomme Cafe & Wine Bar
Seven Gables Inn
SuEllen
The Great Frame Up
Timekeepers

Holiday Carriage Rides

Every Thursday in December, 6 to 8 p.m.

In downtown Clayton

Horse drawn carriage rides will transport holiday shoppers and diners along gaily decorated downtown Clayton streets alive with thousands of twinkling holiday lights and festive holiday window decorations. Clayton restaurateurs, hoteliers and retailers look forward to greeting merrymakers with a warm holiday cheer. For more information, call: 314.290.8544



Clayton Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Artistic Director Edward Dolbashian, will present Holiday Extravaganza at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 in the Clayton High School auditorium. The program will feature Paul Wexler, klezmer clarinetist extraordinaire who is soloist with the St. Louis klezmer band Klezundheit! and YIDN. He will perform his own composition, Klezmer Fantasy. Local "mystery" celebrities will join the orchestra's performance of Toy Symphony. Also on the program will be Humperdinck's Evening Prayer and other holiday favorites. Tickets are \$10 for adults. Please visit www.claytonsymphony.org for more information.

Facts about Clayton

Did you know: The Martin Franklin Hanley House on Westmoreland Avenue was built in 1855, making it the oldest building in Clayton. The City of Clayton purchased the house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in 1968. The house was recently closed to the public to fully inventory its contents and allow a Hanley House Council to make recommendations to the City regarding future use.

If you are interested in learning more about the Hanley House or would like to join the Council, please contact Eric Gruenenfelder at 314.290.8509. The Council is also looking for volunteers to help scan and transcribe family letters.

What would you like to know? Clayton citizens are invited to ask questions of their City officials. Forward your questions to: City of Clayton, ATTN: Judy Kekich, 10 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105; Fax them to 314/863-0295; E-mail them to: jakekich@ci.clayton.mo.us

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<i>In Case of Emergency</i>	911
City Manager	290.8400
Community Outreach.....	290.8473
Finance.....	290.8443
Fire (non-emergency).....	290.8485
Planning and Development	290.8453
Mayor/Board of Aldermen/City Clerk	290.8469
Parks and Recreation.....	290.8500
Human Resources	290.8448
Police (non-emergency).....	645.3000
Public Works	290.8540
TDD	290.8435

STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL CITIZENS

It is the City of Clayton's goal to make programs and facilities accessible to all individuals. If you or someone you know has a disabling condition and would like more information and support for accessibility of all programs and facilities, please contact us at 290.8501(V). Sign interpreters may be scheduled upon request. Suggestions for future programs are welcomed.

City of Clayton

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The Mission of Clayton City Government is to foster a vital, balanced community composed of outstanding neighborhoods, quality businesses, commercial and government centers, premier educational institutions, and a healthy natural environment through an open, accessible and fiscally responsible government.



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COVER: Aerial photo by Srenco Photography